MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether any scheme is being worked out in the near future?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: As soon as boring apparatuses are available, we will start boring and see whether the shallow wells can be deepened and made usable.

Drinking water for coastal area.

335. *MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that there is general acute scarcity of drinking water in the coastal areas of Kartikapalli and Karunagapalli taluks;

(*b*) whether they have any information regarding the hardships and miseries suffered by the people in the coastal areas referred to above during terrible drought of the months of Kumbham, Meenam, Medam and Edavam this year; and

(*c*) whether any scheme is under the consideration of the Government for the supply of drinking water to those areas.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member whether it is to redress the hardship and miseries of the people of the coastal areas that this scheme for water supply is under the consideration of Government?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir, we are proposing to sink a number of deep wells and find out whether we can get good water.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The answer to part (b) of the question is No!. How is that?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is a general scheme that is under consideration. It was not based on any particular thing. We have a general scheme for improvement of water supply in the coastal areas; it was not because of any particular hardship.

Scarcity of drinking water in the Kottayam town.

336. *MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the population of the municipal town of Kottayam according to the latest census;

(*b*) whether they are aware of the serious situation created in the town of Kottayam due to water shortage during the period from Kumbham to the end of Edavam this year and during the summer every year; and

(*c*) what measures the Government have taken in view of the representations already made through this House regarding this matter?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) 33,367.

(*b*) Yes.

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MR. VARUGHESE ITHAC: May I know from the honourable member whether he will kindly explain the last part of the answer 'Steps are also being taken to find out other sources of supply.'?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I have actually inspected one or two sites and given instructions for investigating others.

Vallams.

337. *MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of vallams plying in the canals and lakes of the State in the following categories:

(i) vallams of 8 tonnage and above;
(ii) vallams of 5 tonnage and above up to 8 tons;
(iii) vallams of 8 tonnage and above that ply in the lakes and canals between Quilon and Cochin; and
(iv) vallams of 5 tonnage up to 8 tonnage that ply in the lakes and canals between Quilon and Cochin?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN:

(i) 3045
(ii) 2142
(iii) and (iv) Information is not available.

General Hospital.

338. *MR. N. D. PARAMESWARAN NAMBOODIRI (*The Travancore Jenmies, North*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is Plastic Section in the General Hospital;
(*b*) whether there are proper stretchers in the General Hospital; and
(*c*) whether the Government are aware that the diet given to the patients in the General Hospital is unsatisfactory?

DR. S. JOHN (*Surgeon General*): (*a*) No.
(*b*) Yes.
(*c*) Government are not aware.

MR. N. D. PARAMESWARAN NAMBOODIRI: May I know whether the Government have felt the necessity?

DR. S. JOHN: May I know from the member what he means by 'Plastic Section'?

MR. N. D. PARAMESWARAN NAMBOODIRI: It is not for me to explain if the honourable member does not know.

DR. S. JOHN: I would like to know what he means by 'Plastic Section.'

One member: On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member entitled to put questions to the other honourable member?

PRESIDENT: Undoubtedly. He cannot understand the question. Should he not know what the question is? The Surgeon General says he does not know what it means.

DR. S. JOHN: There is no such thing as Plastic medicine.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Is it the case of the member that there is no such word in the medical phraseology?

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